

Lockport Historic District  
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal  
Butterfly Dam  
Lockport, Illinois  
Will County

HAER No. IL-16-C

HAER  
ILL,  
99-LOCK,  
3A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

ADDENDUM TO  
CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL, BUTTERFLY DAM  
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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LOCKPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT  
BUTTERFLY DAM  
HAER IL-16-C

HAER  
TLL.  
99-LOCK,  
3A-

Date: ca. 1903

Location: Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, north of Ninth Street

Designed by: Chicago Sanitary Commission, Isham Randolph, C.E., Chief Engineer

Owner: Chicago Sanitary Commission

Significance: The Butterfly Dam was constructed in the middle of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal for the purpose of providing flood protection for Joliet and other points on the canal west of Lockport. The dam is unique in that it is suspended from a Pratt truss bridge which is supported by two concrete piers. The dam is on a pivoting mechanism, so it can be turned to cross the canal and block the flow of water. It is 30 feet high, and has six electrically operated valves on each leaf. The need to use the dam for flood prevention seems never to have arisen.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984